

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings.

1. (Withdrawn) A salad container comprising: a container body having an open top, an exterior surface and an interior surface defining a cavity, the body having at least one protrusion projecting inwardly into the cavity, and a selective barrier cooperatively configured to rest gravitationally on the at least one protrusion dividing the cavity into an upper chamber and a lower chamber and having at least one barrier opening configured to selectively exclude entry of relatively large food items into the lower chamber and to provide passage through the barrier of relatively small food ingredients into and out of the lower chamber.
2. (Withdrawn) The salad container of claim 1, wherein the at least one protrusion is annular.
3. (Withdrawn) The salad container of claim 1, wherein the at least one protrusion is added to the body.
4. (Withdrawn) The salad container of claim 1, wherein the at least one protrusion is formed as an integral part of the body.
5. (Withdrawn) The salad container of claim 1 including a lid.
6. (Withdrawn) The salad container of claim 1, wherein the at least one protrusion is projecting upwardly into the cavity.

7. (Withdrawn) The salad container of claim 1, wherein the at least one protrusion is projecting upwardly and cooperates with at least one barrier opening securing the barrier to the body.

8. (Withdrawn) The salad container of claim 1, wherein the at least one protrusion is formed as a seat.

9. (Withdrawn) The salad container of claim 1, wherein the seat has a front surface.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Withdrawn) A salad container comprising: a container body having an open top, an exterior surface and an interior surface defining a cavity, the interior surface having a downwardly inward tapering portion, and a selective barrier cooperatively configured to rest on the tapering portion dividing the cavity into an upper chamber and a lower chamber and having at least one barrier opening to selectively exclude entry of relatively large food items into the lower chamber.

15. (Withdrawn) The salad container of claim 14, wherein the body and barrier are

cooperatively configured so that the barrier may be securely lodged to the tapered portion of the body.

16. (Withdrawn) The salad container of claim 14 including a lid.

17. (Withdrawn) The salad container of claim 14, wherein the barrier includes peripherally projecting tabs.

18. (Withdrawn) The salad container of claim 17, wherein the tabs are foldable.

19. (Withdrawn) A salad container comprising: a container body means having an open top, an exterior surface and an interior surface defining a cavity for holding foodstuffs, the body means having at least one protrusion projecting inwardly into the cavity, and a selective barrier means cooperatively configured to rest gravitationally on the at least one protrusion and to divide the cavity into an upper chamber and a lower chamber and having at least one barrier opening configured to selectively exclude entry of relatively large food items into the lower chamber and to provide passage through the barrier of relatively small food ingredients into and out of the lower chamber.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Withdrawn) A salad container comprising: a container body means having an open top, an exterior surface and an interior surface defining a cavity for holding foodstuffs, the interior surface having a downwardly inward tapering portion, and a selective barrier means

cooperatively configured to rest on the tapering portion and to divide the cavity into an upper chamber and a lower chamber and having at least one barrier opening to selectively exclude entry of relatively large food items into the lower chamber.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (New) A salad container comprising:

a removable lid; and

a container body comprising:

an open top,

a closed bottom,

an exterior surface,

an interior surface defining a cavity, and

at least one protrusion projecting inwardly into the cavity;

wherein the cavity is divided into an upper chamber and a lower chamber by a selective barrier extending across the cavity and the selective barrier is at least partially supported by the at least one protrusion, the selective barrier being sufficiently configured to selectively exclude entry of relatively large food items into the lower chamber and to provide passage through the barrier of relatively small food ingredients both into and out of the lower chamber so that the relatively large food items are stored away from the small food ingredients until just before consumption.

25. (New) The salad container of claim 24, wherein the relatively large food items is salad and the relatively small food ingredients is salad dressing.

26. (New) The salad container of claim 25, wherein the selective barrier has an upwardly angled extension cooperatively configured to wedge the barrier in frictional contact with the at least one protrusion.
27. (New) The salad container of claim 26, wherein the at least one protrusion is formed as a seat.
28. (New) The salad container of claim 26, wherein the seat has a front surface and the barrier is cooperatively configured to wedge the barrier to the front surface.
29. (New) The salad container of claim 26, wherein the upwardly angled extension is further extended by a lateral flange.
30. (New) The salad container of claim 26, wherein the lid has a liquid tight seal.
31. (New) The salad container of claim 24, wherein the selective barrier has an upwardly angled extension cooperatively configured to wedge the barrier in frictional contact with the at least one protrusion.
32. (New) The salad container of claim 31, wherein the at least one protrusion is formed as a seat.
33. (New) The salad container of claim 31, wherein the seat has a front surface and the barrier is cooperatively configured to wedge the barrier to the front surface.
34. (New) The salad container of claim 31, wherein the upwardly angled extension is further extended by a lateral flange.
35. (New) The salad container of claim 31, wherein the lid has a liquid tight seal.
36. (New) The salad container of claim 24, wherein just before consumption the relatively small food ingredients at least partially coat the relatively large food items.

37. (New) The salad container of claim 24, wherein the relatively small food ingredients have a viscosity greater than water.

38. (New) A salad container comprising:

a removable lid; and

a container body comprising:

an open top,

a closed bottom,

an exterior surface,

an interior surface defining a cavity, and

at least one protrusion projecting inwardly into the cavity;

wherein the cavity is divided into an upper chamber and a lower chamber by a selective barrier means extending across the cavity and the selective barrier means is at least partially supported by the at least one protrusion, the selective barrier means being sufficiently configured to selectively exclude entry of relatively large food items into the lower chamber and to provide passage through the barrier of relatively small food ingredients both into and out of the lower chamber so that the relatively large food items are stored away from the small food ingredients until just before consumption,

wherein the selective barrier means has an upwardly angled extension cooperatively configured to wedge the selective barrier means in frictional contact with the at least one protrusion.

39. (New) The salad container of claim 38, wherein the at least one protrusion is formed as a seat.

40. (New) The salad container of claim 38, wherein the seat has a front surface and the selective barrier means is cooperatively configured to wedge the barrier to the front surface.

41. (New) The salad container of claim 38, wherein the upwardly angled extension is further extended by a lateral flange.

42. (New) The salad container of claim 38, wherein the lid has a liquid tight seal.